

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A method for preparing binary or ternary inorganic nanoparticles for use, from a mixture of nanoparticles with another material, the method comprising washing the mixture with a solvent to remove the said other material and form a solution of nanoparticles disaggregated in the solvent.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising separating at least a first fraction of the nanoparticles from a mixture of the solvent and the said other material.

3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the separation is performed by filtration.

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the separation is performed by dialysis.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the separation is performed by centrifugation.

6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein in the separation step the said first fraction of the nanoparticles are separated from another fraction of the nanoparticles.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the nanoparticles of the said other fraction are relatively small in comparison to the nanoparticles of the first fraction.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said other material is a by-product of the formation of the nanoparticles.

9. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said other material comprises a surfactant.

10. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is an organic solvent.

11. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is an alcohol.

12. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said other material is soluble in the solvent.

13. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is one in which the said other material is preferentially soluble to the nanoparticles.

14. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is a polar solvent.

15. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nanoparticles are generally smaller than 50 nm in diameter.

16. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is such as to hold the dissolved nanoparticles in a disaggregated state.

17. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising adding a surface modifying agent to the solution of nanoparticles.

18. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the surface modifying agent is a dye.

19. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nanoparticles are light transmissive.

20. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nanoparticles are non-conductive.

21. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising adding the solution of nanoparticles to a polymer precursor.

22. (original) A method as claimed in claim 21, comprising converting the polymer precursor to form a polymer body containing a substantially uniform dispersion of nanoparticles.

23. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 21, comprising treating the polymer to render it insoluble in the solvent.

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A semiconductive-polymer precursor material containing nanoparticles, formed by a method according to claim 21.

26. (currently amended) A semiconductive-polymer material comprising a substantially uniform dispersion of nanoparticles, formed by a method according to claim 1.

27. (currently amended) A semiconductive-polymer material containing a substantially uniform dispersion of nanoparticles, formed by a method according to claim 22.

28. (currently amended) A $A[[n]]$ semiconductive-organic material containing a substantially uniform dispersion of nanoparticles.

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A[[n]] semiconductive-organic material as claimed in claim 28, wherein the presence of the nanoparticles influences at least one material property of the semiconductive-organic material.

31. (currently amended) A[[n]] semiconductive-organic material as claimed in claim 30, wherein the said property is an optical and/or an electronic property.

32. (currently amended) A[[n]] semiconductive-organic material as claimed in claim 31, wherein the said property is refractive index.

33. (currently amended) A[[n]] semiconductive-organic material as claimed in claim 28, wherein the nanoparticles have a surface coating.

34. (currently amended) A[[n]] semiconductive-organic material as claimed in claim 33, wherein the surface coating is of a material that influences at least one optical and/or electrical property of the semiconductive-organic material and/or influences the interaction of the nanoparticles with the semiconductive-organic material.

35. (currently amended) A method for tailoring at least one property of a[[n]] semiconductive-organic material, the method comprising forming a substantially uniform dispersion of nanoparticles in the semiconductive-organic material.

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (new) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the other material is a by-product of the formation of the nanoparticles.

39. (new) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the washing step includes removing the other material by one or more of dialysis, filtration and centrifugation.

40. (new) A semiconductive-organic material as claimed in claim 26, wherein the presence of the nanoparticles influences at least one material property of the semiconductive-organic material.

41. (new) A semiconductive-organic material as claimed in claim 27, wherein the presence of the nanoparticles influences at least one material property of the semiconductive-organic material.